

# CITY VIEWS

A NEWSLETTER FOR CLAYTON BUSINESS AND RESIDENTIAL CITIZENS

OCTOBER 2003

VOLUME 12, ISSUE 5



## FY 2004 Budget Adopted

In July of 2003, the City's Operating and Capital Improvements Budget for fiscal years 2004 through 2008 was submitted to the Clayton Board of Aldermen. The budget, which includes revenue and expense projections for a five-year period, was reviewed during two lengthy workshop sessions, a public hearing and two Board of Aldermen meetings before being approved on August 12<sup>th</sup>.

On the revenue side, the property tax levy increased from \$4.342 million to \$4.633 million. However, due to new growth, the property tax rate actually went down from 65.6 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation to 65.2 cents in fiscal year 2004, which continues the favorable trend that started in 1996. In 1996, Clayton's property tax rate equaled \$1.10 per \$100 of assessed valuation.

The 2004 budget calls for cumulative expenditures of \$26.7 million. This represents a decrease of \$9.3 million from 2003 budgeted expenditures, which can be attributed to the completion of various capital improvement projects including reconstruction of Shaw Park Pool, renovation of the Public Works garage and renovation of Wydown Park. The 2004 budget calls for a continuation of an aggressive capital improvements program with expenditures in excess of \$8.8 million, which includes:

- completion of the new Fire Station and rehabilitation of Clayton City Hall;
- improvements to the Oak Knoll Pond and to Hanley House;
- major street improvements on Brentwood at the Forest Park Parkway and microsurfacing Clayshire, Hillcrest and Polo Subdivisions; and
- the City's contribution to completion of the new Clayton Transit Center and MetroLink stations at Forsyth and Central Avenue.

Budget, Page 2

## Oak Knoll Pond Renovation

Oak Knoll was developed during the 1920s as a private estate that included two mansions, formal gardens and pond. Over time the pond in Oak Knoll Park has experienced problems with water leakage. During the summer of 2002, the City began research into what would be necessary to renovate the pond. After studying a report, which offered solutions for the restoration of the site, the City issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) to complete the renovation project. Since all bids came in over the original budget of \$100,000, Clayton's Public Works Department



accepted the responsibility of general contractor. "RFP's were issued for various components of the project. As a result, contractual bidders, Parks & Recreation and Public Works Departments' staff will perform the subcontract work," said Public Works Director Dave Christensen. "With City staff doing a majority of the work, including landscaping and repairs to the spillway, the project will be completed under budget." Additionally, Clayton's Parks & Recreation Department received a \$50,000 grant from the Municipal Park Grant Commission which will help pay for amphitheater repairs and the completion of new pathways.

Included in the RFPs issued for the project was one for a fountain and lighting. Precision Fountains' proposal was selected. The proposal included lighting of the fountain at night and a 5-horsepower motor which provides the energy for a 20-foot tall spray pattern.

Mr. Christensen confirmed that the project will start this fall and should be completed in December of 2003.

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Francis L. Kenney III  
Mayor

Ten o'clock Sunday morning the phone rings. "This is a hell of a way to run an army," is one of the caller's opening lines. I am finally able to determine that this resident just had a knock on his door and was told that his water would be off for a couple of hours while the water company did some repairs and that it was using a jack hammer on Sunday morning. I explained that if it was a water line break - an emergency - it could do the repairs on an emergency basis. The caller retorted that this spot had been seeping for weeks and the neighbors had been calling but getting nowhere and further chastised the city for being run so poorly. I told him I would check it out and get back with him.

I called the acting city manager who told me she was not aware of any weekend work permits being issued by the city manager or of any emergencies but she would send a policeman over to check it out and call me back. I called the initial caller back to let him know the poorly run city was looking into it and as soon as I had any information I would let him know, and if, in fact, it was not an emergency or if a work permit had not been issued, the job would be shut down, and regardless, I would get back with him when I found more out. At that point his tone became a little nicer as he said "Well now that they have started I would prefer that they

not stop." I called him back a second time to tell him the police had gone by, it was not an emergency nor had a weekend permit been issued so the job had been shut down. "I guess I started this, didn't I, so I can't complain, can I?" While tempted, I let that be a rhetorical question.

Except for emergency repair work, the City tries to work with the utilities to cause the least amount of inconvenience to the community. I know you're thinking I'm nuts. It seems like there is always one street or another shut down or lane closed, and it can be ugly. It even seems as if the utilities and cable companies go out of their way to show us they can pretty much work in public right-of-way when they want to, during weekdays, and the way they use those cans of spray paint to mark where they have been or are going, it looks like a party after they get through marking up the streets and lawns. I sometimes think they use those colors just to show us who's boss, not because they want to make sure their oblivious employees don't cut or dig someplace they shouldn't. And with MetroLink construction about ready to get underway in Clayton, it will get worse before it gets better.

Is there a point to all this? Not really. Except I came home this gorgeous Thursday evening before the Art Fair and thought how fortunate I am to live in the community I do. The quality of housing, the ambience with the commercial community, the level and quality of city services, the quality for profit and not-for-profit businesses and institutions, the schools and the people all make Clayton a true community. I hope each of you stays involved and continues to work at making Clayton a better community. Who knows, you may get what you ask for.



**Budget, continued from Page 1**

In addition, three new firefighter/paramedic positions will be added; startup of the East Central Dispatch Consortium, a five-community public safety dispatch center located in Richmond Heights, will be undertaken; and at least three free WI-FI internet access zones will be deployed in the Central Business District. With the new budget, the City will continue to invest in infrastructure and facilities, implement new programs, and provide an incomparable level of service to its citizens.

**October Meeting Schedule**

The following list of public meetings contain all regularly scheduled meetings of the City of Clayton. Meetings may be added, canceled or rescheduled, in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, as the need arises.

- Oct. 2 Board of Adjustment  
The Center - 5:00 p.m.
- Oct. 8 Plan Commission/ARB  
The Center - 5:30 p.m.
- Oct. 13 Art Commission  
The Center - 7:00 p.m.
- Oct. 14 Board of Aldermen  
The Center - 8:00 p.m.
- Oct. 16 Landscape Committee  
Clayton High - 5:00 p.m.
- Oct. 17 C.R.S.W.C.  
The Center - 7:30 a.m.
- Oct. 20 Plan Commission/ARB  
The Center - 5:30 p.m.
- Oct. 27 E.E.A.C.  
Clayton High - 5:30 p.m.
- Oct. 27 Parks & Recreation  
The Center - 7:00 p.m.
- Oct. 28 Board of Aldermen  
The Center - 8:00 p.m.

## Clayton Art Commission Adds to Its List of Accomplishments

The Clayton Art Commission (CAC) was established in 1997. Its primary mission is to enhance the visual and aesthetic environment in Clayton by helping to ensure that quality public art becomes an integral part of the City's growth and development. It has taken significant steps to accomplish this mission in the last five years.



"Five Rudders" by Alexander Calder on loan from Washington University Gallery of Art  
A gift of Mrs. Mark C. Steinberg

The CAC has negotiated with St. Louis institutions to obtain loans of major works of art for the City. In 1997, a sculpture titled Folke Filbyter by Carl Milles was loaned to the City by the Saint Louis Art Museum and installed in front of Clayton City Hall at the corner of Bemiston and Forsyth. The CAC recently obtained an extension of the Art Museum loan. The Commission also obtained a significant work of art on loan from Washington University's Gallery of Art. In September of 2001, Five Rudders by Alexander Calder was unveiled at a ceremony in Shaw Park's Centennial Garden. In the spring of 2003, the Clayton Art Commission obtained an extension of the loan from Washington University for the Calder sculpture.



"Folke Filbyter" by Carl Milles on loan from the Saint Louis Art Museum

On a more lighthearted note, the Commission issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) inviting artists to submit design for artwork to decorate sixteen of the plain, stainless steel traffic control units in Clayton's central business district. Following a jurying process, proposals from seven artists were selected to paint the sixteen traffic control units in 2000 and 2001.



"Youth" by Todd Frahm in Wydown Park

In 2001, collaborating with the City's Parks & Recreation Commission on the redesign of Wydown Park, the CAC worked with Clayton's Parks & Recreation and Landscape Committees to commission another piece of public art. An RFP was published for artwork to be included in the renovation plan. The proposal by Todd Frahm was selected. In September of 2002, Mr. Frahm's limestone sculpture titled "Youth" was installed in Wydown Park.

The Commission also serves as fiscal agent for a consortium of ten regional, not-for-profit organizations. The group's mission is to promote public art in the metropolitan area. In 2002, it completed a regional public art brochure. A St. Louis Public Art Curriculum Kit will be produced for area teachers, and will be available for distribution in 2004. The Commission has also collaborated with the City of St. Louis on the People Project, and with organizations such as Arts in Transit and the Saint Louis Art Fair to further enhance the aesthetic environment.

In 2002, the Commission issued its first RFP for a major public art piece. The proposal submitted by internationally recognized artist Alice Aycock was selected. Ms. Aycock's sculpture will be placed in front of The Center of Clayton. The City has committed \$25,000 in matching funds to the project; in December of 2002, the Clayton Chamber of Commerce donated \$10,000. The Clayton Art Commission is conducting a fundraising campaign to obtain the balance needed to finance the project.

If you are interested in helping to bring the first major commissioned artwork to the City of Clayton, you should join the list of supporters that includes the City of Clayton, the Clayton Chamber of Commerce and all the members of the Clayton Art Commission. Contact Meridith McKinley at 314.664.5902 to learn more about becoming a supporter of the arts.



Alice Aycock sculpture proposed for The Center of Clayton

## Carbon Monoxide, the Silent Killer

Because carbon monoxide is colorless, odorless, tasteless and nonirritating, it is described as the silent killer. According to Clayton Fire Chief Mark Thorp, carbon monoxide is the leading cause of accidental poisoning deaths in America. Carbon monoxide is a byproduct of combustion produced by common household appliances such as gas or oil furnaces, water heaters, space heaters and clothes dryers. Barbecue grills, fireplaces, wood-burning stoves, gas ovens and car exhaust fumes entering a home from an attached garage are also potential sources.

Low level symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning are similar to the flu and are often misdiagnosed. Once in the bloodstream, it prevents life-sustaining oxygen from reaching vital organs in the body such as the brain and heart. While everyone is at risk from carbon monoxide poisoning, medical experts report that unborn babies, children, the elderly and those with heart or lung disorders are at greater risk at lower thresholds of exposure.

Carbon monoxide poisoning is preventable. The Clayton Fire Department recommends that every home have at least one carbon monoxide detector with an audible warning signal installed near the sleeping area. If the detector activates, gather family members to determine if any are experiencing symptoms. If so, leave the home immediately until emergency responders confirm that it is safe. If there are no symptoms, turn off all potential sources of carbon monoxide, open doors and windows, and call a trained service technician to check appliances, flues and chimneys.

Other safety tips include annual service checks of home furnaces. A cracked heat exchanger in a gas-fired furnace can emit carbon monoxide. Fireplaces and chimneys should be inspected each year, and chimneys should be cleaned prior to the heating season. Flues to furnaces, hot water heaters and clothes dryers should also be checked yearly. If it is necessary to use a portable heating appliance, units that heat with hot water are safer than those with exposed heating elements. Additionally, it is dangerous to use electrical extension cords to power portable heating appliances.

For more information about cold weather safety, contact Fire Marshal John LaVenture at 314.721.9570 or [johnl@ci.clayton.mo.us](mailto:johnl@ci.clayton.mo.us).

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## Fall 2003 Household Chemical Collection Events

Disposing of leftover household chemicals incorrectly is hazardous to the environment. To provide the safest alternative for disposing these chemicals, St. Louis County's Health Department sponsors chemical drop-off events. The events are free for residents; by law, businesses are prohibited from participating. Chemical drop-off events will be held at Westfield Shoppingtown South County on Saturday, October 11; Town & Country Crossing (Lucent Technologies) on Saturday, October 18; and St. Louis Community College - Flo Valley on Saturday, November 15. All events will operate between 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Acceptable items include: paints, stains, varnishes, pesticides, herbicides, poisons, gasoline and other fuels, solvents and strippers, aerosols, motor oil and filters, gas cylinders, fluorescent tubes, household batteries (rechargeable), antifreeze, brake and transmission fluids, pool chemicals and other acids and bases, car batteries, wood preservatives, drive sealant, and mercury-containing items (thermometers, thermostats, salts). Items that will not be accepted include: explosives and ammunition, radioactive waste, smoke detectors, medical waste, household trash, tires and other bulky items. Materials from business, commercial, nonprofit, and government organizations are also prohibited.

Some materials (motor oil, certain batteries, etc.) can be recycled locally. For a list of local recycling outlets and details about the chemical drop-off events, call the St. Louis County Department of Health Recycling Hotline at 314.286.9200, or visit their web site at [www.stlouisco.com/doh/environ/recycler/waste\\_mg.html](http://www.stlouisco.com/doh/environ/recycler/waste_mg.html).

## Can We Find You in an Emergency?

In the case of an emergency, public safety personnel should be able to find your home or business quickly. If it is difficult to find your home or business, the seconds lost could mean the difference between life and death. Proper posting of address numbers is critical. For your home or business establishment to be well identified, police and fire officials suggest:

- posting your address numbers at the entrance of your driveway, if your home or business is set back from the street
- posting all addresses on the street, when more than one home is accessed from a single driveway
- that address numbers be legible at night
- posting house numbers directly on your house, apartment or garage, or on the mailbox or curb, where they can be seen easily from the road
- that address numbers be at least 4" tall, easy to read, and not cursive style

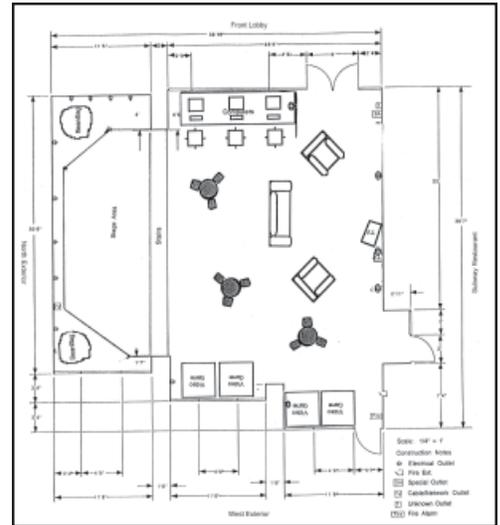
Please consult the Clayton Fire Department at 721.9566 for additional guidance.

## The Center of Clayton — a Full-Service Center Game Room Project

The Game Room at The Center of Clayton was created as a gathering place for Clayton High School students. Recently Clayton High students were asked what they would do to encourage greater use of the Game Room. A poll of fellow students determined that the game room needed to be reorganized. Clayton High architectural students were given the Game Room redesign as a class project, which focused on reorganizing the space to make it more functional and interesting for the students.

Plans were submitted and the six best drawings were selected. The drawings were displayed in The Center lobby throughout the month of January. The public was asked to vote for their favorite and to provide their input. Nearly 100 votes and comments were submitted, and two designs emerged as the favorites. Citizens' comments were considered during the alteration of the final design, which combined the two preferred designs into one. The final plan includes a stage, bean bags and a sofa for lounging, a TV, computer work stations with access to the Internet, and of course, video games.

The cost of the Game Room Project is estimated to be \$8,000 - \$10,000. The students are now working on a fundraising campaign. Businesses and individuals interested in contributing are asked to call Kris Fulford at 314.290.8503.



### Camp for Kids of Rams Fans

The Center of Clayton staff has the answer for St. Louis Rams football fans about what to do with the kids when they want to join friends at the Dome or just watch the game on TV.

Parents can register their kids for Rams Camp. For five-hours on Sundays, Oct 19 and Nov 30, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., children ages 5 to 12 will enjoy swim lessons, games, safety activities at the Leisure Pool, as well as crafts, and supervised playtime. Each child will receive a box lunch with a Subway sandwich, drink, and chips—and, regular updates on the game score.

Advance registration is required. Please call or visit the Center of Clayton Welcome Desk at least ten days before the game date. In order to ensure appropriate staffing ratios, same day registration will not be accepted. Each parent must complete an emergency contact form at the time of registration and a meal selection card at time of drop-off. For more information, please call Stephane McCormick at 314.290.8572.

### The Center Gets WI-FI

The Center of Clayton becomes another Clayton “hot spot” with the installation of WI-FI zones this fall. WI-FI antennas have already been installed at Shaw Park Pool, and the City is currently studying proposals for installations in the central business district. Wi-Fi, which stands for wireless fidelity, offers anyone with a wireless-enabled laptop access to high-speed Internet service. “This is an additional benefit to coming to The Center,” said Tom Johnson, CRSWC president. “We want to provide as much value as we can to our members and visitors.”

Besides the access for guests of The Center, presentations held in the meeting rooms will be enhanced with this high-speed Internet access. WI-FI at The Center will provide a safe place for children to surf the Internet and research items for school projects and reports. Guests can access the Internet and check e-mails while having lunch or relaxing in the lobby.

### The Center Introduces Its New Spinning Program

To launch its new indoor cycling program, The Center of Clayton will provide free, introductory classes for its new spinning program starting October 13th. “The cycles used in spinning are different from the stationary cycling bikes. Spinning cycles have no electronic features, which makes them more like regular bicycles,” said Clayton’s Parks & Recreation Director Patty DeForrest. Spinning coordinators at The Center tout the group exercise experience involved in the spinning program. In addition to the guidance by dedicated instructors, the experience offers challenges and motivation for the participants that they do not encounter when riding alone. It also provides heart conditioning for improved strength and stamina.

To kick off the new spinning program, The Center will host the Judy Ride events on Saturday, October 18. The Judy Ride Foundation was founded in 1998 to raise money for free breast screenings, education and breast health services. The events include a one-mile fund ride or a three-hour spinning event.

For more information about registering for the new spinning classes, call 314.290.8500 or visit the Welcome Desk at The Center. For Judy Ride event information call 314.727.5839 or visit [www.judyride.com](http://www.judyride.com).

## 2003 Leaf Collection Program

The following is the 2003 Leaf Collection schedule for the bi-weekly leaf collection program listing the weeks and days of collection for each subdivision in Clayton. There will be NO leaf collection during the week of Thanksgiving.

**WEEK OF:**

**October 6 - 10**

**October 20 - October 24**

**November 3 - 7**

**November 17 - 21**

**December 8 - 12**

**December 22, 23, 24, 26**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
8100 Blk of Stratford*	8100 Blk of Stratford*	Carrswold Subdivision	E. Brentmoor Subdivision
Clayton Gardens Subdivision	Hillcrest Subdivision	Southmoor Subdivision	W. Brentmoor Subdivision
Polo Subdivision	Ellenwood Subdivision	Forest Ridge Subdivision	
Country Club Court	Tuscany Park Subdivision		
7700 Blk of Walinca Terrace			

**WEEK OF:**

**October 13 - 17**

**October 27 - 31**

**November 10 - 14**

**December 1 - 5**

**December 15 - 19**

**December 29, 30, 31 - January 2**

Monday	Tuesday
Bemiston Subdivision(Old Town)*	Bemiston Subdivision(Old Town)*
Maryland Terrace Subdivision(7400 blk of Maryland)*	Maryland Terrace Subdivision(7400 blk of Maryland)*
Hanley Place Subdivision(7500/7600 blks of Westmoreland)*	Hanley Place Subdivision(7500/7600 blks Westmoreland)*
Parkside Subdivision(10 blk of Brighton Way)*	Parkside Subdivision(10 blk Brighton Way)*
Northmoor Subdivision(Bland Ave.)	Skinker Heights Subdivision
7400 Blk of Moorlands Subdivision	Wydown Terrace Subdivision
7500 Blk of Moorlands Subdivision*	Hi-Pointe Subdivision*
Forest Court*	

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Claverach Park Subdivision	Wydown Forest Subdivision*	Davis Place Subdivision*
Clayshire Subdivision	Hi-Pointe Subdivision*	7500 Blk of Moorlands*
Clayshire Ridge Subdivision	6300 & 6400 Blks Forsyth	Forest Court*
Haddington Court		
Wenneker Drive		

*\*Denotes restricted parking for street sweeping. Please keep this schedule for future reference.*

**REMINDERS:**

- Obey the street sweeping signs on the scheduled leaf collection day.
- Collections will be made on the day scheduled or the following work day, rain or shine.
- When a scheduled collection day falls on a holiday, leaves will be collected the day before or the next non-holiday work day.
- Rake ONLY leaves to curblines; no plastic bags, limbs or brush.
- In case of inclement weather (heavy rain, snow or ice), the leaf collection schedule will be modified. Please call Public Works at 290.8540 for a revised schedule.
- Please do not rake leaves onto islands, parkways or common areas. Leaf pickup in these areas will be made only as time permits, and may be skipped to maintain the scheduled leaf collections in front of residential properties.
- Do not pile leaves in alleys, since alley pickup is not available.



## Party in the Patch

in Clayton's Shaw Park

Friday, October 17, 2003

from 6:30 to 8:30p.m.

Residents from Clayton, Brentwood, Maplewood and Richmond Heights are invited to the Party in the Patch in Clayton's Shaw Park. Parks & Recreation Departments from the four communities combined resources to offer this night of fun for everyone! For \$5 a person, party guests can hop a ride on the hayride, listen to a story by the bonfire, search for candy on the haunted candy hunt, and stop by the petting zoo. Don't miss out on all the fun! For more information, contact The Center of Clayton at 290.8500.

## Clayton Farmers' Market

North Central Avenue  
(Clayton's central business district)



October 4, 11, 18, 25  
Saturdays, 8:00 a.m. to noon

Cooking demonstrations, live music, fresh market omelets, baked goods, coffee and more.

## Holiday Champagne Stroll

First 2 blocks west of Hanley on Clayton Road

Sunday, November 23

11:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Stroll along this charming area of antique shops and boutiques filled to the brim with unique gifts and ideas for the holidays. Sponsored by Clayton Row Antiques, Holiday Champagne Stroll is a great way to start the Holiday Season.



## FACTS ABOUT CLAYTON

**Q:** What can I do to keep solicitors from leaving fliers and pamphlets on my property?

**A:** The City of Clayton has a "no solicitation" ordinance that prohibits merchants from leaving handbills if the property owner so requests. You may register your address to be placed on the "no visit" list, or you may post a "no solicitors" sign.

For a copy of the "no peddler, solicitor or canvasser" ordinance which describes how to post your property or for a form to register for the "no visit" list, contact Clayton's Finance Department at 290.8443.

What would you like to know? Clayton citizens are invited to ask questions of their City officials. Forward your questions to: City of Clayton, ATTN: Judy Kekich, 10 North Bemiston, Clayton, MO 63105; Fax them to 314/863-0295; E-mail them to: [jakekich@ci.clayton.mo.us](mailto:jakekich@ci.clayton.mo.us)

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

<b><i>In Case of Emergency</i></b> .....	<b>911</b>
City Manager .....	290.8400
Economic Development .....	290.8473
Finance .....	290.8443
Fire (non-emergency) .....	721.9566
Planning and Development .....	290.8453
Mayor/Board of Aldermen/City Clerk .....	290.8469
Parks and Recreation .....	290.8500
Park Program 24-Hour Registration .....	290.8501
Personnel .....	290.8449
Police (non-emergency) .....	727.4130
Public Works .....	290.8540
TDD .....	290.8435

## STATEMENT OF ACCESSIBILITY TO ALL CITIZENS

It is the City of Clayton's goal to make programs and facilities accessible to all individuals. If you or someone you know has a disabling condition and would like more information and support for accessibility of all programs and facilities, please contact us at 290-8501 (V). Sign interpreters may be scheduled upon request. Suggestions for future programs are welcomed.

## City of Clayton

10 North Bemiston Avenue  
Clayton, Missouri 63105

### MAYOR

Francis L. Kenney, III

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"The Mission of Clayton City Government is to foster a vital, balanced community composed of outstanding neighborhoods, quality businesses, commercial and government centers, premier educational institutions, and a healthy natural environment through an open, accessible and fiscally responsible government."



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COVER: Aerial photo  
by Srenco Photography